AN ACCOUNT of a ½d Dreadful and Amazing FIRE,

At Execution-Dock *in* Wapping, *on* Saturday *Night last, which Burnt down and Consumed in less then seven Hours time near* 100 *Houses, and three Vessells in the River, with abundance of other Loss, Computed to many thousands of Pounds.*

26. April. 1703.

ON *Saturday* Night last, being the 24*th* of this Instant *April*, between the Hours of Eleven and Twelve of the Clock, a Terrible and Dreadful Fire broke out in the Yard of Mr. *Roberts*, a Boat-Builder, near *Execution-Dock* in *Wapping*; which (as I am credibly inform'd) was unhappily occasion'd in this manner, *viz.* There being a great quantity of Reeds in the Yard aforesaid, some of which being disposed of in a Loft; where some Young Men belonging to the said House were taking Tobacco, when by Accident or Carelessness, the Reeds taking Fire in an instant (as it were) several Bundles of it was in a Flame, and it being very dry, notwithstanding all the means that could be used to extinguish it, prov'd ineffectual; for in less than an Hours time, not only that Yard, wherein was incredible quantities of Timber of all sorts, but Mr. *Lashe's* Yard, next adjoyning, with his dwelling House, and several adjacent Houses, was all over covered with the Fury of the devouring Flames: so that tho' abundance of People and Five Engines came suddenly to their assistance, yet by reason the Tide was then at Ebb, and Four of the Five Engines being something disorder'd in the Hurry and Confusion, the Fire got such a terrible Advantage thereby, that in less than Seven Hours time, it Burnt down and Consum'd to Ashes, near a Hundred dwelling Houses, besides several Timber-Yards and Ware Houses of great Value, particularly Mr. *Lash* the Queens Block-makers-Yard, where her Majesties Carriages are made: wherein was a vast quantity of Timber of all sorts, of incredible Value: Mr. *Roberts* the Boat-Builder lost an incredible quantity of Goods, besides Timber, worth several Hundreds of Pounds: Mr. *Alloway* the Brewer lost by this sudden and amazing Fire, according to a modest Computation above 1500 *l.* in Beer and Ale, besides vast quantities of other Goods, to a considerable value: A *Tallow Merchant* who had an incredible quantity of melted and unmelted Tallow by him, had most of it consum'd by the Fury and sudden Violence of the Flames, which in a great measure hastned the Destruction not only of his own House, but several others that had the Misfortune to be near it.

A *Deal* Merchant, who had but some Weeks before this sad Disaster, laid in in above 300 *l.* Stock of *Deals* into his Yard, which also underwent the dismal and sad Fate aforesaid: being totally Consumed by the mercileſs Fury of this amazing Fire, besides his dwelling House, and most of his Houshold Goods: And indeed this Fire was so sudden, violent, surprizing and terrible, that several Persons who were very Wealthy on *Saturday* Night about Eleven a Clock, was before the next Morning reduc'd to Want and Poverty, not knowing where to lay their Heads.

This Fire began near Eleven at Night, and continued Burning with amazing and uncontroulable fury till about Six a Clock in the Morning before it could be extinguish'd; during which time it destroyed all the Houses between *Wapping Dock* and *Execution Dock*, as also Three Vessells in the River, One of which were a *French* Prize Laden with Stores, that unfortunately came to Anchor there the same Evening; and was Burnt down to the very Water, with all its Lading.

'Tis impossible at present, to compute the Loss this dreadful Conflagration has occasion'd, by reason so many Familys are dispers'd and disinhabited; but 'tis certain it amounts to many Thousands of Pounds, in regard it happen'd among such remarkable and wealthy Families whose substance for the most part was consum'd by the devouring Flames, while their sorrowful Owners, became sad Spectators of its fatal Distruction, and utterly incapable of power to preserve it.

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